

# VCAT Chairman's Introductory Remarks.

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NIST

VCAT

E. David Spong

14 August 2007

*EXCERPTS from*

CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY  
VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

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OBJECTIVE AND DUTIES:

- The Committee shall review and make recommendations regarding **general policy** for the National Institute of Standards and Technology its **organization, its budget, and its programs**.....
- The Committee will function solely as an **advisory body**.....

MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

- **No employee** of the Federal Government shall serve as a member of the Committee.
- The Committee chairperson and vice chairperson shall be **elected** by the members of the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS:

- The Committee **shall report** to the Director of the Institute. The Director's Office shall provide **staff support** for the Committee.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (CONT.):

- The Committee shall provide an **annual report**, ..... for submission to the Congress on or before January 31 in each year. Such report shall deal essentially, though not necessarily exclusively, with **policy issues or matters which affect the Institute, or with which the Committee in its official role as the private sector policy adviser of the Institute is concerned**. Each such report shall identify **areas of program emphasis** for the Institute of **potential importance to the long-term competitiveness of United States industry**.
- The Committee shall not act in the **absence of a quorum**, which shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee not having a conflict of interest in the matter being considered by the Committee.
- The Committee may establish such other committees and **subcommittees** of its members as may be necessary.....

# VCAT Sub-Committees

- The chairs and members of these sub-committees, identified to-date are:

	<b>Information Technology</b>	<b>Biosciences</b>	<b>Nanotechnology</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Wyatt Starnes	Tom Baer	Paul Fleury
<b>VCAT Member</b>	E. David Spong	Lou Ann Heimbrook	John Cassidy
<b>VCAT Member</b>	Gary Floss	Jim Serum	Elsa Reichmanis
<b>VCAT Member</b>	Vinton Cerf	TBD	Bob Williams
<b>NIST Liaison</b>	Cita Furlani	Willie May	Robert Celotta

- Un-assigned VCAT member: William Happer

# Feedback from VCAT Members

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Of particular concern to me is the ***competitiveness issue and the participation and influence on US and international standards***. What is the relationship and level of activity of NIST with ANSI ? Does NIST have a vision of what the global playing field for standards should be? Perhaps a sub-committee devoted to these issues might be useful.

# Actions for Sub-Committee Chairs

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1. Co-opt VCAT members and a NIST liaison to fill out their roster
2. Develop a sub-committee Vision, Mission supporting the NIST Mission “*to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life*” Consider feedback from members
3. Schedule appropriate sub-committee meetings to develop input to NIST on their respective areas including, but not limited to strengths, gaps, additional areas to emphasize, strategies etc. If this input were to be provided to NIST at the mid-point between the VCAT meetings, feedback from NIST could be an agenda item for the following VCAT meeting.

# Meeting Dates

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	
	14, 15 Aug '07	Boulder	
	11, 12 Dec '07	S. Carolina	
	7, 8 April '08	Gaithersburg	
	12, 13 Aug '08	Boulder	
	1X, 1Y Dec '0	S. Carolina	

# Chairman's & Directors Expectations of VCAT Members

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- Attend VCAT Meetings
- Actively participate in VCAT meetings
- Complete action Items in a timely manner
- Respond to e-mails within a reasonable time